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**IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 JAN 2006**

**PCT/IB2004/002309**

**P185; 410; 630**

**May 10, 2005**

**European Patent Office  
D-80298 München  
Germany**

**Dear Sirs,**

**PCT Patent Application No. PCT/IB2004/002309  
Based on Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2003-275062  
and 2004-168115  
Applicant: Taizo Michida  
Short title: Alert Apparatus for Use with Fasteners**

**With reference to the Official Communication dated 22 November 2004 containing the Written Opinion, I enclose herewith new pages 84 to 88 to replace pages 84 to 87 presently on file.**

**In this connection, the claims have been revised to further distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art cited by the Examiner.**

**I note the objections raised at Item V alleging that the present invention lacks novelty and inventive step. In this respect, the present invention concerns an alert apparatus for providing a reminder to indicate to a user that the fastener on their bag, for example, has been left open. In other words, the present invention allows a user to confirm the condition of their bag, i.e. whether it is open or closed, audibly, and hence in most circumstances more easily than by seeing or feeling the bag.**

**Specifically, the present invention concerns an alert apparatus which can be attached to or incorporated into a fastener, for example on the zip sliders of a zip fastener on a bag. Whenever the zip sliders are separated, the alert apparatus provides an alert indication which is directed to the user to let them know that their bag is open and reminding them to close it. Whenever the zip sliders are moved together again, thereby closing the bag, the alert indication is suppressed so that the user knows the bag is closed.**

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10/564504

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-3AP20 Rec'd PGT/PTO 13 JAN 2006

and US 4 755 802 employ a loud, high energy alarm signal for drawing the attention of as many people as possible, and therefore could not be considered an "alert indication" as in the present invention.

Moreover, with the present invention, the alert indication is suppressed whenever the fastener elements are together. In contrast, with GB 2 284 698 and US 4 755 802, once the alarm sounds it can only be turned off by switching a deactivating switch, and not by re-closing the fastener.

Lastly, with the present invention, the alert indication is activated whenever the fastener is open to indicate to the user themselves that their bag, for example, is open. In contrast, with GB 2 284 698 and US 4 755 802, when an authorised user wishes to open the fastener, they must first deactivate the alarm system. That is, when an authorised user opens the fastener, no alarm sounds. It is only when the fastener is opened in an unauthorised manner, that the alarm will sound.

Therefore, it is submitted that the present invention, as defined in the claims, is both novel and has an inventive step over the prior art documents cited by the Examiner.

With regard to the objections raised at Item VIII, the Examiner will note that claims 1, 12, 13, 14, and 17 have been amended to clarify that the apparatus is "for attachment to fastener equipment", "connectable to a slider", and "connectable to a first slider".

I request reconsideration of the present invention in light of the above comments, and the issue of a favourable International Preliminary Examination Report.

Yours faithfully,



MICHIDA: Taiso  
APPLICANT

Enc. Amended pages

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